

Subject: Comment on draft FY06-08 STIP
From: Kathleen King <kingkath1957@yahoo.com>
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To: DOT_STIP@dot.state.ak.us

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Statewide Planning Office
Division of Program Development

Re: Comment on draft FY06-08 STIP

After comparing the FY 04-06 STIP, amend. 8, dated January 2005 figures to the draft FY 06-08 STIP, dated November 2005 figures, I see that over 320 projects totalling over \$2,800,000,000 were cut from the FY 06-08 draft. As you know, these cuts are comprised of delayed and cancelled transportation projects. The money previously allotted for these projects has been usurped to fund the proposed Knik Arm bridge, Gravina bridge, and the Juneau road.

How can the state, in good conscience, put money toward bridges and a road to Juneau while letting our current transportation system languish? Our roads and other transportation related systems are in horrible disrepair and improvements are needed.

To compare on a simpler level, as a homeowner I would not buy a 50-ft travel trailer if my house needed a new hot water heater, a paint job, and broken windows repaired. However, we have seen some homeowners that will put wants ahead of needs. We scratch our heads at their logic and we certainly do not like living next to them. Our neighbor's poorly maintained property has an economic effect on those who live nearby.

We, the state, should spend money wisely on taking care and fixing what we have before we spend friviously. Our economy has historically been one of boom and bust. Because we are in somewhat of a boom cycle, we should take care of what we have before we cannot afford to. I urge the state to reconsider cutting funding for vital transportation maintenance and construction projects.

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